

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 264785

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 264785

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KS

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. RALPH RINZLER, DIRECTOR, FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE, WILL VISIT SEOUL BETWEEN DECEMBER 14 AND 23, IF POST BELIEVES THIS TIME FEASIBLE, TO DISCUSS KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN 1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

2. SMITHSONIAN MAILING BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND BASIC DOCUMENTS. PROJECT INVOLVES FOLKLORISTS DESIGNATED BY SMITHSONIAN AND GOK SELECTING 25 KOREAN PARTICIPANTS (MUSICIANS, SINGERS, CRAFTSPERSONS) TO PERFORM ON THE MALL FOR ONE WEEK OF 1976 12-WEEK FESTIVAL, AND THEN TOUR MAJOR AMERICAN CITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT KOREAN COMMUNITIES FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO JOIN THEIR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. GOK ASKED TO FUND ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE AND COMPENSATE PARTICIPANTS FOR LOST WORK TIME. SMITHSONIAN FUNDS ALL INTERNAL TRAVEL, BOARD AND LODGING, AND TEN DOLLARS POCKET MONEY DAILY PER PARTICIPANT. GROUP WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 264785

ALSO INCLUDE ONE NON-PERFORMING BILINGUAL FOLKLORIST TO

EXPLAIN CULTURAL TRADITIONS BEING DEMONSTRATED AND ONE BILINGUAL TOUR ADMINISTRATOR TO SERVE AS LIAISON WITH AMERICAN TOUR DIRECTOR.

3. KOREAN EMBASSY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE IN LETTER OF MAY 31, 1974. SINCE THEN, EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAS HAD TURNOVER, BUT RINZLER WILL CONFER THERE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR SEOUL, FOR THEIR SUGGESTIONS OF OFFICIALS TO CONTACT.

4. SMITHSONIAN WILL WELCOME USIS GUIDANCE AND COOPERATION, INCLUDING ACCOMPANYING RINZLER ON OFFICIAL CALLS IF POSSIBLE.

5. PLEASE CONTACT BY LOCAL TELEGRAM KIM IL TAE, 7-506 SAN CHUN APT., SAN CHUN DONG, YONG SAN KU, SEOUL AND ADVISE BY RETURN CABLE IF MR. KIM AVAILABLE TO CONFER WITH RINZLER OR IF FORWARDING ADDRESS AVAILABLE FOR MR. KIM. KISSINGER

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